

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Salisbury to Continue Reliance on Numerous Expert  
Reports Regarding Milford Hills  
*No Official Agency or Report Has Substantiated Presence of Adverse  
Health Issues*

Salisbury, NC –March 27, 2006 – Following an Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ATSDR) Public Availability Session, the City of Salisbury announced that it will continue to depend on the expert and factual findings of state and government health authorities with regards to producing reliable information to verify linkage between cancer causing agents and the Milford Hills and Meadowbrook areas. Due to the seriousness of the allegations, the City has chosen to examine the matter based on factual conclusions from the NC Department of Public Health and the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (DENR), in addition to the ATSDR of Atlanta findings. The 6 pm session, held on Monday evening at the Salisbury High School Auditorium, offered ATSDR corroboration with findings by both the NC Department of Public Health and DENR.

Susan Kluttz, Mayor for the City of Salisbury states, "The City is vitally concerned about the health and welfare of our citizens and has actively and openly welcomed these report findings." A North Carolina Department of Public Health Report, dated February 28, 2006, shows no causal relationship between air contaminants and any known cancers in the Milford Hills area. In addition, the DENR report finds that the area has very low amounts of hydrogen sulfide, which does emit an odor, but is not known to cause cancer, and low levels of benzene, a chemical used for asphalt testing. Mayor Kluttz adds, "The report from DENR concluded that the hydrogen sulfide and benzene findings were similar to that of any other local urban community. My concern is that we deal with facts and not fear."

In January of 2001, the Salisbury City Council rewrote the Nuisance Ordinance to include holding and transfer facilities. Prior to the revisions the ordinance had only included production sites. Prompted by complaints of odor from the local asphalt terminal by local residents, the revised ordinance enforced stricter terminal standards. Emissions, tested three times per week, may not exceed 10 parts per million. Richard Kelly, Risk Management Officer for the City, states, "To adhere strictly to the standards, the Associated Asphalt Terminal voluntarily replaces carbon canisters at 8 parts per

million to curtail reaching the 10 parts limit. This proactive solution has greatly reduced the odor in the area.”

A detailed report of ATSDR findings, distributed prior to the meeting, offered the following findings: “The results of this cancer data review suggest that people living within one mile of the industrial plants off of Jake Alexander Boulevard do not have any greater risk of getting cancer than other residents of Rowan County, the state of North Carolina, or other residents throughout the United States.” Salisbury City Manager Dave Treme notes, “We must rely on these recognized health agencies and authorities to provide factual information and accurate reporting. The City has not received any authenticated information which substantiates adverse health issues in Milford Hills.” Although we welcome these studies, we remain confident in the quality of our drinking water.”

Citizens repeatedly received affirmation that there were no health concerns present. Greg Zarus, ASTDR Atmospheric Scientist, provided the environmental update segment of the evening session. When asked by a resident if the Milford Hills Community was a cancer cluster, Zarus replied, “No. Nothing significant was found here or at six other sites.” Questioned by another citizen as to if the community was safe, Zarus reiterated, “The data doesn’t show anything that you are in harm’s way,...nothing remarkably noteworthy,...no great, tremendous concern.” Following the 1½ hour meeting, individuals were invited to meet with ASTDR staff individually to discuss private and personal comments and to share concerns.

The Salisbury City Council will receive a formal report from the Department of Public Health in the near future. For more information regarding the City of Salisbury, please visit the City’s website at [www.salisburync.gov](http://www.salisburync.gov).

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